

Launch Activities in Indonesia

Indonesia's Bandung Institute of Governance Studies (BIGS) organized a seminar on November 21, 2006 around the release of the Open Budget Index. The seminar was held to publicize the importance of greater public access to budget information and to develop creative ways to increase access to budget information. Speakers at the seminar included public officials, academics, and BIGS staff. The event was well attended by journalists, NGO activists, government officials, members of parliament, and alumnae of BIGS' budget literacy training, among others.

The seminar was held at the Yehezkiel hotel in Bandung. It started with a keynote and welcome speech by Dedi Haryadi, Chairman of BIGS, followed by presentations by Kamalia Purbani the Bandung Mayoralty Secretary, Budi Radjab, a political scientist at Padjadjaran University, and Mr. Haryadi. Finally, a questions and answers session was held.

The seminar was attended by 40 individuals from various backgrounds. Attendants included print and broadcast journalists, NGO activists, government officials, members of parliament, and journalists from local papers including *Pikiran Rakyat*, *Gala Media Newspaper*, *Tribune Jabar Newspaper*, and *Radar Bandung*; as well as from national newspapers such as *Kompas*, *Seputar Indonesia*, and *Republika*. NGO activists from budget groups such as Initiative and P3ML were also present.